

## Pay Dispute Update

### FE Pay Dispute

**On 24 January, UCU's Further Education Committee (FEC) considered branch feedback to the survey carried out after the day of strike action on 3 December.**

**Feedback was received from over 70% of colleges.**

FEC noted that many branches had risen to the challenge and had worked hard to build support for the strike. FEC noted that, unsurprisingly, support for the strike had tended to be stronger in those areas where our levels of organisation were higher.

It was also noted that some branches reporting solid turnouts observed that appalling local management practices had increased members' motivation for the action.

FEC noted that discussion with AoC had taken place both before and after the strike. The AoC officials made it clear they regarded the 2013-14 NJF round as concluded and noted that the other five unions had accepted the offer.

What is clear is that many members are concerned about their falling living standards and the real-term reduction in the value of their pay. This was reflected in the ballot result, with a 71% vote for strike action on a turnout of 26%.

FEC held a full debate on what action to call next. The majority response from branches was not in favour of an immediate call for further strike action over this year's pay round.

The committee did not, therefore, agree to proposals for a further series of 1-day strikes in February and March. FEC did agree that a parliamentary lobby should be organised.

Instead, and with an eye to building the dispute to influence the imminent next pay round, FEC Officers have agreed to consult further with branches on the next steps. These may include a variety of campaigning activities and developing new more targeted or rolling regional strike action.

The survey will be circulated to branches next week and will provide feedback for FEC to consider when it next meets on 7 March.

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### FE PAY 2014-15

**Please note that UCU remains in dispute over the 2013-14 pay round.**

However, another series of negotiations for the 2014-15 pay round is about to start and we are currently consulting with sister unions to agree this year's claim.

It is clear that members remain aggrieved at their falling pay levels. It is time that the employers recognised that they cannot continue to cut real-term salaries and expect service as normal.

Branches will be sent the claim proposed by the trade union side before the end of February.